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THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the present State and Condition of the Protestants *in the* Cevennes. *Of the Methods of giving them Aid and Succours. Of the Duty of the* French *Refugees in* England, *in this Point. Of the Degeneracy of the* English *Youth.*

From Wednesday July the 28th, to Saturday July the 31st, 1703.

Country m. MAster *Observator*, I was at a Coffee-House at *London* this Journy, where I heard some Discourse which has almost broke my Heart: They were very Honest True *Englishmen* which Talk'd it, and therefore I the more relye on the Credit of what they said. They did all agree that our *Protestant* Brethren in the *Cevennes*, were now able to Cope with the *French Tyrant*; that they were Masters of the Countries about them; and that the present condition of *France* could not allow Succours to *Montrevel*'s Army sufficient to Secure the Country from the Incursions of those People: But they said, that *France* having spared their Forces from Action this Summer in *Flanders*, and other places, would be able in the Winter to spare Regular Troops enough to Suppress the *Cevennois*; and, you know, Sir, the *French* are always Active, they never Sleep when they have any thing to do, and I'll tell you, this Story has made such an Impression on my Spirits that I can hardly Sleep a Nights: Pray, good Sir, give us your Opinion of the Circumstances of those People.

Obs. The same Power which Spirited up those People in Defence of their Holy Religion, and the Antient Laws and Liberties of the *French* Nation, I hope will still be their Support; and what may we not expect from a very small Number of Men, who are under the Conduct of *Infinite Wisdom*, and whose Leader is the *Lord of Hosts*: Yet Countries, and Nations, and the Liberties of the People are to be preserv'd in the use of Means; if we will not help our selves, we cannot expect God should Work Wonders to deliver us. The War broke out in the *Cevennes*, was like a *Beacon* set on Fire in those Mountains by the *Hand* of *Providence*, for the *Confederate Powers* of *Europe* to resort thither, as the most proper Place to Attack the common Enemy of *Europe*. I know not the Reasons of State why the Alarum was not taken, and the Design pursued, by sending Timely Succours to those People, who have by Singular and Uninterrupted Successes, maintain'd their Ground against Numerous Troops of Regular and Disciplin'd Forces; and not only so, but by Divine Assistance, have increas'd in *Power* and *Strength*.

The Time for Assisting those People is now Elapsed, the Port of St. *Esprit* on the *Rhosne*, and other Parts are so thoroughly Fortify'd, and so well Guarded, that there is now no Hopes of Assisting them with Foreign Succours directly, either by Sea or Land: 'Tis in vain to reflect on past Advantages unimprov'd, let us consider the Means left us of Assisting them now.

There is yet a Door open for their Relief, in which consists the Safety of *Europe*, and the Common Cause of the Allies, I mean *Portugal*. All the Eyes of *Europe* are on that little Kingdom, which now, by a Happy Treaty, is included in the Grand Alliance. By sending a sufficient Number of Forces into that Kingdom, and therewith Attacking the *Spaniards*, is the only Means left of preserving the *Cevennois*; for this will make so mighty a Diversion to the *French* Kings Forces, that it will be impossible for him to send Troops enough against them, which otherwise he might do after all other Campaigns are over; the *Latter* Season and the *Early* being the time of Action in *Spain*, so that the *Sevennois* will hereby be safe; and if there is, as it is expected, a General Revolt in *Spain*, the Army will be able to march directly thro' *Catalonia* into the *Cevennes*, which will cause a General Insurrection along that Coast; and when once two such Armies are joyned in a place where nothing can oppose their Entrance into the Heart of *France*, then a Period will infallibly be put to the growing Greatness and Exorbitant Power of the *French* King, to reduce which so many *Potentates* are now engaged.

We have all the Encouragement in the World to send such a Body of Men, on so *Just*, *Glorious*, and *Profitable* a Design: The *English* are very well beloved in *Portugal*, and that King makes all necessary Preparations, he takes Care of the Hospitals, which will be served after the best manner; and the General they go under is a Grandee of that Country, and a Person whose Father restor'd the Injur'd House of *Braganza* to the Crown of *Portugal*, and is now going to restore the Injur'd House of *Austria* to the Crown of *Spain*.

You may be sure a Design of this Nature (which if Executed, must be the Destruction of the *Gallic Empire*) will meet with the greatest Opposition from the Emissaries of *France*, who are Posted in all Countries on purpose to make Abortive all the Designs against that Prince. The Duke of *Schombergh* is raising a Regiment of *Dragoons*, of 20 Troops, for the Service of *Portugal*, and the *French* here among us, who were expected to enter into that Service, with the greatest *Freedom* and *Chearfulness*, do not come in so readily as could be wish'd: Several disaffected Persons knowing their Zeal for the *Cevennois*, do spread Reports abroad, that there are Forces enough ready for that Service, which Report much obstructs this Levy, and 'tis much to be feared that these Reports are made by such as are Disguis'd *Papists* among them, who are Emissaries of *France*, and Employ'd to render the Levy ineffectual.

And the Industry of these People to the *Intent* and *Purpose* aforesaid, not only appears in private *Conversation*, but Publickly in *Print*, for on *Tuesday* last, in the *Post-Man*, a *Protestant News-*

Paper

Paper, is inserted an Advertiſement Encouraging, upon very Honourable Terms, ſuch Foreigners and Natives as ſhall Liſt themſelves in His Grace, the Duke of *Schombergh's* Regiment of *Dragoons*, and on *Wedneſday*, the Day following, to prevent the ſaid Levy, it is inſerted as News in the *Engliſh-Poſt*, That the Regiment of *French Refugees* to be Commanded by the Duke of *Schombergh*, is Compleated.

Now as there is the greateſt *Reaſon*, ſo is there the greateſt *Encouragement* for a Levy of this Nature, all People are Liſted without Diſtinction, that are *Proteſtants*; and, as I am informed, have 30 or 40 *s.* a Man Bounty Money given them, tho' the Officers have had none. Now, honeſt *Country-man*, we have an unaccountable Number of *Frenchmen* in this Kingdom, many of which have ſerved in the Army, and do now exerciſe divers Trades and Occupations to the prejudice of the Freemen of this Realm, who have ſerved Apprentiſhips to *Trades* and *Manufactures*; if we may believe them, they are *Proteſtants*, and left their Country for Conſcience Sake, and I am ſure under that Notion have they been Civilly Treated by the *Engliſh*, they have partaken of the good things of our Land, and have been maintain'd and ſupported by our *Bounty* and *Charity*; they have lived under the Protection of our Laws, when they had no *Freedom* or *Liberty* in their Native Country; what now will you think of theſe Men, if they are found backward in Liſting themſelves in the Service of a Country and People to whom they have been ſo very much beholden, eſpecially in a Cauſe like this, which is in Defence of the *Liberties* of *Europe*, and of the *Rights* and *Properties* of their own Country, and for the Aſſiſtance of their Brethren in the Defence of that Religion which they themſelves pretend to profeſs, and for want of which they became *Refugees* in *England*? I ſay, Sir, if they are backward in this Cauſe we have the greateſt Reaſon in the World to alter our Opinion of 'em, and no longer to eſteem them as *Friends* and *Proteſtants*, but as *Enemy-Strangers*, come into our Land as *Spies*, and as ſuch they ought to be Treated; for I know no Reaſon that Men ſhould be Tolerated in a Country, and have the Protection of its Laws who will not venture their Lives in Defence of the Realm, eſpecially conſidering the Reaſons before mentioned, and that the preſent War in *Europe* is chiefly owing to themſelves, who not defending their own *Rights* in the Land of their Nativity, have occaſioned the *Exorbitant Power* of their Prince, whereby he has Embaraſs'd all *Europe*.

Country-m. If theſe *French* Fellows do not compleat the Duke of *Schombergh's* Regiment in a Fortnights time, I'll ſpeak to our two Members of Parliament, the Parſon of our Pariſh, and our Juſtice of the Peace to have them all baniſh'd the next Seſſions of Parliament; for look ye, Sir, if they ben't *For* us, they are *Againſt* us. We are Actually Invaded when we have ſo many Foreigners in our Bowels, that will neither aſſiſt in the Defence of us, or their own Brethren; they are like *Gunpowder* in a Houſe, which only wants Fire to blow it up. What ſignifies the Bolts and Locks on our Doors, if we have got People in our Houſe that are more likely to *Let In*, than *Keep Out* an Enemy.

But really it rejoyceth my Heart when you [tell] me the K. of *Portugal* is ſo ſtedfaſt in the Co[m]mon Cauſe, and that there is ſuch a Love and [a] good an Underſtanding betwixt the two N[a]tions, & I am very glad that His *Portugal* Maje[ſty] takes ſo much Care of our poor Soldiers a[s] provide them good Hoſpitals againſt their co[m]ing; our poor Sailors find it a ſad thing to [be] Sick here without an Hoſpital, and 'tis [no] worſe to be ſure in a Foreign Country. B[ut] Mr. *Obſervator*, I hope none of the *Engliſh* [Je]that have ſo long kept our poor Sailors out [of] *Greenwich-Hoſpital*, will be Employ'd in [the] *Hoſpitals* in *Portugal* and *Spain*.

Obſ. No, no, Honeſt *Country-man*, they have all of 'e[m] more Wit. They live in Clover at home; all *Greenwi[ch]* Hoſpital is their own, they have got Poſſeſſion, and [will] keep it till we make a Law to diſpoſſeſs them, for [tho'] that have entred the Premiſes without any Laws, till [they] have Legal Poſſeſſion. But prithee what ſhould we do [with] ſuch Men as theſe beyond Sea, would you have 'em [de]vour and kill, for want of Neceſſaries, as many Soldiers [and] they have done Seamen?

I muſt ſeriouſly tell you, That no one deſerves a Civil [Em]ployment under Her Majeſty, that is affraid to venture [his] Life in Her Service. Is it not a Shame to have Men at [home] who get Eſtates by Abuſing the Soldiers and Seamen, [and] who never ventured a Hair of their Heads in the Ser[vice] of their Country? The old *Romans* were ſo juſtly Polit[ick] that they would not allow any of the Natives of the [Em]pire to be Freemen, of any of their Towns and Cities, [till] ſuch time as they had Served a certain Term of Years [in] the Army.

I have Read in the Hiſtory of Queen *Elizabeth*, that [the] Young Nobility and Gentry of that Reign, expoſed [them]ſelves after ſuch a profuſe manner on the Theatre of War in Foreign Countries, that that Queen was forced to [re]call them by Proclamation; otherwiſe the beſt Families in *England* would have been Extinct. I wiſh our Glorious Queen *Ann*, the Second *Elizabeth*, was under the ſame Circumſtances; That She had Men in Her Kingdom of like Virtue and Courage, as had Her Glorious Female Predeceſſor. Our Heroes are now turn'd into Beaux, a *Horſe*, a *Hound*, and a *Whore*, are the Atchievements of this Degenerate Age. The Theatre in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, quite Eccliſpes thoſe in *Flanders*, *Italy*, and on the *Rhine*, and whilſt our Virtuous Queen is forming a Camp in *Portugal*, Her Degenerate Subjects are forming theirs in *Dorſet-Garden*; and deſire to Die after the manner of the Heroes of the Stage, that is, to Live again with a *Whore* in the Evening.

Would the Youth of this Nation (I mean the Nobility and Gentry) Reflect on the Glorious Actions of their Fore-Fathers, and ſee how much they are beholden to Priſtine Valour and Virtue, for the Eſtates and Liberties they now Enjoy, We need not at this time want a Regiment of *Engliſh* Youth, as large as the Duke of *Schombergh's*, to be employ'd in the preſent Expedition to *Portugal*; for all the Glory and Honour that can poſſibly be attained, may be got by this Enterprize; they may March to *Portugal*, thence thro' all the Territories of *Spain*, thro' *Catalonia* to the *Cevennes*, thence to *Paris*, and return home by the way of *Calais* and *Dover*, Loaden with Lawrels, and Staggering under the Weight of Honour, and then are they fit to be Miniſters of *State*, and Councellors to the greateſt Queen of the Univerſe.

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